

The Free Press Short Story

Through the Dark Hours

ERNEST L. THURSTON

STAND UP, John Blakesdale. Old Judge Arnold leaped forward, gazing thoughtfully down at the tall, dark, broad-shouldered chap with sullen black eyes who rose and stared up at him.

After a long moment the Judge spoke quietly: "John, all your life quick temper, uncontrolled, has ruled you. Again and again it has brought trouble upon you; finally this serious trouble. No longer can the state overlook your actions. You have had the fairest of trials." He cast a swift glance at the white-faced Dale Kennedy. "The jury has declared you guilty without leaving its box. Now, while you are shut away, try to realize that He that is slow to anger is better than the might; and that he that rules his spirit than he that taketh a city." John's voice trembled with feeling—"I sentence you to two years in the penitentiary."

A half-minute of dead silence followed. John, cheeks flushed and eyes blue, turned then, at the touch of the guard's hands, and started from the courtroom.

As he took the first step, Dale sprang forward, impulsively holding out his hand. "John, John," he exclaimed, "steadily, 'if there is anything I can do for you, call on me for old friendship's sake. I'll—"

"I'll be looking you up when I get out. I want you." John jerked about, fists clenched. "Friendship! Bah! What do you know about friendship? I'll pay you back. I'll—"

"Silence!" Judge Arnold's voice came sharply. At Dale's pleading look, the Judge shrugged his shoulders and turned away. John, staring straight ahead, tramped heavily out.

Wretchedly miserable, Dale slipped out a side exit and made his way down the corridor to his office. Once at his desk, he sank into his chair and dropped his head into his hands. The case of John Blakesdale had cut him to the heart, for they had been friends from childhood.

Many a quarrel and break had they had, due to John's temper; but always they had come together again for there were fine qualities of true comradeship in John. True, they had seen less of each other in recent years, for John was running his farm, while Dale, taking up law, had shortly found himself an assistant district attorney.

They had kept in touch by rare letters and rarer meetings. More often Dale heard of his chum through his frictions with neighbors and acquaintances. Finally had occurred this last episode when, in a burst of passion, John had seriously injured another young man. He had been arrested and his trial set for an early date.

Dale had been much upset by John's predicament, and then by the position in which he found himself. In the ordinary course of events the case would be handled by his office. Promptly he sidestepped the assignment, asking his chief to assign another prosecutor, as he did not want to take the case against his friend. The prosecuting attorney had looked at him oddly, but finally had made another assignment.

Unexpectedly, then, the blow had fallen. As the date for trial approached, he found the other assistants tied up with other cases, and Dale was ordered to take over the Blakesdale matter.

To John, the news that Dale was to prosecute had brought only relief and delight. Dale was his friend and had always helped him out of scrapes. Of course Dale would see that he was let off easy, possibly with a suspended sentence. Besides, Judge Arnold, the trial judge, was a friend of both of them.

Gradually, as the trial proceeded, however, John's smile had faded, his lips had tightened, and his mind had become embittered. Dale had not tried to let his friend off. White and worn, the young prosecutor had presented his case strongly, although with the utmost fairness. John, of course, could not see that.

Dale sat at his desk now, sick at heart, picturing his friend on his way to a room behind bars—John who loved sky, hills, and growing things. Yet he felt that justice had been done. Helping John out of scrapes had never seemed to do any good. The hard lesson was due, if only John would see it.

Suddenly Dale reached for a sheet of paper. Swiftly, impulsively, lovingly, he wrote his friend trying to show his true friendship, striving to lessen the hurt of the blow he knew John felt so deeply. He mailed his letter and felt better.

Four days later it came back to him, marked "Returned Unread."

Anger flamed up in Dale then. John had received only what was just and right. Why could he not take his punishment like a man? For days Dale did not write again. In that time he heard that John was showing himself sullen and bitter.

Dale, however could not forget his chum behind prison walls. "I'm his friend, whether or not he's still mine," he told himself.

That afternoon he slipped away in his roadster down to Torry Village where

answer. Dale stretched out his hand. Still John stood rigid, or was his body gathering for a spring? Dale, feeling that it was taking an age to cross the room, saw the other's arm twitch. Did John mean to strike, to attack? Suddenly his arm swung out, but not in anger. John Blakesdale leaped forward to grasp Dale's hand. For the first time Dale realized that the other was struggling to speak. Finally his words came huskily, "Dale—Dale—it's good to see you. I was a—beast to threaten so. I was mad—eaten up by—"

"Forget all that!" Dale laughed happily, leading the other to a chair.

"I've got to say it, Dale. I nursed a grudge. I vowed there was no such thing as friendship. I was determined to injure you and—I look pleasure in the thought. I controlled myself in prison to be able the sooner to get at you. I didn't read your letters. I kept them to tear up and throw your face. Why I even asked for parole, feeling sure I would be refused because you would turn me down and so I'd have further grounds for a grudge against you."

"But, Dale you didn't refuse. It—sort of knocked me over. I thought and thought. Then I did read your letters, and I felt your steady friendship between the lines—Somehow it pulled me back to sane thinking."

"Brrrllinnng!"

Dale took down the receiver. Over a wire came Cheney's anxious voice. "That chap Blakesdale gave us the slip, Kennedy. Watch out for him. Have some one to guard—"

"Calm yourself, Cheney," laughed Dale. "I've already met the chap you spoke of. Fapt is, I've got close to him. Thanks, and good night!"

He put down the receiver, suddenly weak, and dropped into his chair. He turned to his friend. "Come home with me, John, for to-night. We must talk over your plans."

A few minutes later the two went out, arm in arm.

BANK OF MONTREAL STATEMENT REVEALS STRONG LIQUID POSITION: CASH HOLDINGS AT HIGH LEVEL

Of Total Assets of \$759,108,178, Liquid Assets Amount to \$491,247,207, Equal to 71.97% of All Liabilities to the Public—Cash Holdings are up to \$87,210,888 from \$78,683,217—Excess of Assets Over Liabilities to Public Amounts to \$76,538,810

The Annual Statement of the Bank of Montreal shows the Bank in its usual strong liquid position. Of total assets of \$759,108,178, quickly available resources are \$491,247,207, equal to 71.97% of all liabilities to the public.

A feature of the liquid assets is afforded by cash holdings of \$87,210,888, up from \$78,683,217 a year ago.

The principal holdings are in government and other bonds and debentures, which now amount to \$317,936,912, as compared with \$316,967,375 at the end of the previous year. The excess of assets over liabilities to the public has increased to \$76,538,810.

The report makes its appearance at a time when it is certain to be studied closely by all who are anxious to get a better understanding of the strong position in which the leading bank has maintained its resources.

Notwithstanding general evidence of more active manufacturing conditions, current loans are slightly down at \$243,477,041, as compared with \$251,185,263 at the end of the previous year. This would indicate that a number of Canadian companies still find it possible to finance business in its present volume without leaning heavily on banking accommodation.

Deposits Well Maintained

Deposits are well maintained, especially in view of recent large government bond offerings. Total deposits payable on demand and after notice are \$630,218,835, compared with \$641,346,710. Notes of the Bank in circulation are up to \$35,255,876 from \$33,819,807, doubtless reflecting a greater measure of general business activity.

Of special interest is the showing of total assets of \$759,108,178, with which to meet payment of liabilities to the public of \$682,569,368, leaving an excess of assets over liabilities to the public of \$76,538,810.

Profit and Loss Account

Profits for the year are reported at \$4,105,024, from which are deducted Dominion and Provincial government taxes, totalling \$900,654, leaving net profits at \$3,204,369, equal to 4.23% on the combined capital, rest and undivided profits. From this amount has been paid \$2,880,000 in dividends to shareholders, as compared with \$3,060,000 in the previous year. A further deduction of \$100,000 as reservation for bank premises, the same as last year, leaves an amount of \$224,369 to be applied to profit and loss account. With the addition, the total credit of profit and loss carried forward is \$1,809,820, up from \$1,585,451 a year ago.

As has been the practice for the past few years, the Bank has issued the statement for the public in an easily understandable form, with explanatory notes for each of the headings under which the figures are grouped.

The report will be submitted to shareholders at the annual general meeting, which will be held at the Head Office of the Bank in Montreal on Monday, December 3rd.

Why suffer needlessly? Douglas's Egyptian Liniment brings quick, sure relief to scalded feet, soft corns and warts. Relieves inflammation. Removes proud flesh.

CHEESE RECIPES

CHEESE SAUCE

2 tablespoons butter
2 tablespoons flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
Pepper

4 tablespoons grated cheese
1 cup milk

Method No. 1: Melt the butter and stir in the flour and seasonings until smooth and frothy. Stir in the milk gradually and cook, stirring constantly until it thickens. Just before serving, add grated cheese. Stir until melted and serve hot.

Method No. 2: Mix the flour smoothly with a little cold milk. Heat the rest of the milk in a double boiler. Add the flour and stir constantly until the mixture thickens. Add butter and seasonings and, just before serving, add the grated cheese. Less butter will be required if this method is used.

CHEESE SOUP

4 cups milk
2 or 3 slices onion
2 tablespoons butter
2 tablespoons flour
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup grated cheese
Yolks of 2 eggs

Scald milk with the onion, then remove the onion. Melt the butter in the top part of a double boiler. Stir in the flour until smooth. Stir into this the heated milk and seasonings and cook in a double boiler, stirring constantly until thick. Into this stir the beaten egg yolks. Cook one minute and add the grated cheese. Beat with a Dover egg beater and serve at once. Egg yolks may be omitted, but make a richer and more delicious soup.

BAKED EGGS WITH CHEESE

4 eggs
1/2 cup grated cheese
1 cup buttered bread crumbs
Salt
Pepper

Break the eggs into a buttered baking dish or into ramekins. Bake in a hot oven until cooked around the edges. Cover with seasoned cheese, then spread the top with buttered bread crumbs. Re-heat and serve hot.

CHEESE BISCUITS

2 cups flour
4 teaspoons baking powder
2 tablespoons lard or butter
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup milk (about)
1/2 cup grated cheese

Sift the flour, baking powder and salt together, and rub in the fat evenly. Add the grated cheese and enough milk to make a soft dough. Roll out in shapes and bake in a hot oven. The dough should be handled as quickly as possible and mixed only enough to blend the ingredients.

CHEESE AND OLIVE SALAD

Put cheddar cheese through a meat chopper or grate finely. Mix with a little cream and season with salt and pepper. Mix with this finely chopped olives. Mould into small balls or rolls and arrange on crisp lettuce leaves. Serve with salad dressing. Chopped parsley or lettuce may be sprinkled over the top.

Cream cheese or cottage cheese may be used for this salad and are equally delicious in flavor.

POTATO AND CHEESE SALAD

Mix finely chopped or grated cheese with cold potatoes cut in cubes. Season with salt and pepper and moisten with salad dressing. Place by spoonfuls on lettuce leaves and serve cold. Chopped celery, finely minced onion or pimento in small pieces may be added and give variety to the salad.

Serres Heal Quickly—Have you a persistent sore that refuses to heal? Then try Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil in the dressing. It will stop sloughing, carry away the proud flesh, draw out the pus and prepare a clean way for the new skin. It is a recognized healer among oil and numbers of people can certify that it healed where properly applied.

IF YOU CAUGHT ONE

At the great depths of the sea there can be no color; the surroundings in which the fish live are probably as drab as the dark water, and they themselves are as dull as their homes. Eyes would be useless if we judge objects that have no points for eyes, while others have them as large as tea plates. Some have practically no mouth, with huge bodies, while several seem to be all mouth. One fish brought up from a depth of 2,000 fathoms was about two feet in length. It resembles a huge centipede, but instead of legs it had hair-like fins on the top and bottom of its body which looked like a strip of ribbon. Its mouth was like a snake's and it has been called the snake-beaked ribbon fish.

Why is a person swimming in the river at Paris like a madman? Because he's in Seine (insane).

IT'S LIVER THAT MAKES YOU FEEL SO WRETCHED

Wake up your Liver Bile

No Calomel necessary

For you to feel healthy and happy, your liver must pour two pounds of liquid bile into your bowels, every day. Without that bile, troubles start. Four dangers of slow elimination. Poisons in the body. General weakness. How can you speed up this slow elimination like this completely with more bowel-cleansing salts, oil, mineral water, laxative candy or shewing gum, or touch-up? They don't wake up your liver.

You need Carter's Little Liver Pills. Purely vegetable. Safe. Quick and sure results. Ask for them by name. Refuse substitutes. See, at all drug stores.

TOMBSTONES

In the village cemetery of Dagenham, Essex, is to be found a tombstone on which this bit of advertising copy appears:

"Here lies John Steere, Who, when living, brewed good beer. Turn to the right, go down the hill. His son keeps up the business still."

And a Liverpool plumber, knowing the value of advertising of almost every kind, saw to it that a tombstone was erected to his father-in-law, with these words inscribed:

"Sacred to the memory of Joseph Summers. Always known as the best of plumbers, Succeeded in business by Thomas Shaw, Who is the deceased's son-in-law."

NOT ENOUGH!

"How do you like your wireless, Sandy?"

"Well, it's aw right to listen to, but those bulbs are no so good to read by!"

Hand stains can be removed by washing in the juice of ripe tomato.

Campbhr put in drawers or trunks will keep away mildew.

Rub hinges with a feather dipped in oil and they will not creak.

LAME-BACK

LAME BACK, RHEUMATISM, LUMBAGO, respond quickly to RUMACAPS.


Brown's Drug Store

RUMACAPS

EDWARDSBURG CROWN BRAND CORN SYRUP

The famous energy-producing sweet—an easily digested food invaluable for infants, growing children, and enjoyed by the whole family.

A product of The Canada Starch Co., Limited



BANK OF MONTREAL

Established 1817

A presentation, in easily understandable form, of the Bank's

ANNUAL STATEMENT

31st October, 1934

LIABILITIES

LIABILITIES TO THE PUBLIC

Deposits	\$630,218,835.10
Payable on demand and after notice.	
Notes of the Bank in Circulation	35,255,876.00
Payable on demand.	
Bills Payable	185,183.19
Time drafts issued and outstanding.	
Letters of Credit Outstanding	6,522,749.56
Financial responsibilities undertaken on behalf of customers (see off-setting amount [x] in "Resources").	
Other Liabilities to the Public	10,386,724.55
Items which do not come under the foregoing headings, including \$9,000,000 advances from the Dominion Government under The Finance Act.	
Total Liabilities to the Public	\$682,569,368.40

LIABILITIES TO THE SHAREHOLDERS

Capital, Surplus and Undivided Profits and Reserves for Dividends	76,538,810.08
This amount represents the shareholders' interest in the Bank, over which liabilities to the public take precedence.	
Total Liabilities	\$759,108,178.48

RESOURCES

To meet the foregoing Liabilities the Bank has

Cash in its Vaults and in the Central Gold Reserves	\$ 87,210,888.26
Notes of and Cheques on Other Banks	28,670,917.74
Payable in cash on presentation.	
Money on Deposit with Other Banks	16,764,669.62
Available on demand or at short notice.	
Government and Other Bonds and Debentures	317,936,912.23
Not exceeding market value. The greater portion consists of gilt-edge securities which mature at early dates.	
Stocks	103,789.95
Railway and Industrial and other stocks. Not exceeding market value.	
Call Loans outside of Canada	32,133,844.20
Secured by bonds, stocks and other negotiable securities of greater value than the loans and representing moneys quickly available with no disturbing effect on conditions in Canada.	
Call Loans in Canada	8,399,657.67
Payable on demand and secured by bonds and stocks of greater value than the loans.	
Bankers' Acceptances	26,528.08
Prime drafts accepted by other banks.	
TOTAL OF QUICKLY AVAILABLE RESOURCES	\$491,247,207.75
(equal to 71.97% of all Liabilities to the Public)	
Other Loans	243,477,041.21
To manufacturers, farmers, merchants and others, on conditions consistent with sound banking.	
Bank Premises	14,500,000.00
Three properties only are carried in the names of holding companies; the stock and bonds of these companies are entirely owned by the Bank and appear on the books at \$1.00 in each case. All other of the Bank's premises, the value of which largely exceeds \$14,500,000, appear under this heading.	
Real Estate, and Mortgages on Real Estate Sold by the Bank	1,487,975.10
Acquired in the course of the Bank's business and in process of being realized upon.	
x Customers' Liability under Letters of Credit	6,522,749.56
Represents liabilities of customers on account of Letters of Credit issued by the Bank for their account.	
Other Assets not included in the Foregoing	1,873,204.86
Making Total Assets of	\$759,108,178.48
to meet payment of Liabilities to the Public of	\$682,569,368.40
leaving an excess of Assets over Liabilities to the Public of	\$76,538,810.08

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

Profits for the year ended 31st October, 1934, after making appropriations to Contingent Reserve Fund, out of which Fund full provision for Bad and Doubtful Debts has been made	\$4,105,024.34
Less Dominion and Provincial Government Taxes	900,654.83
Dividends paid or payable to Shareholders	\$2,880,000.00
Reservation for Bank Premises	100,000.00
	\$2,980,000.00
Balance of Profit and Loss Account, 31st October, 1933	\$1,585,451.28
Balance of Profit and Loss carried forward	\$1,809,820.79

CHARLES B. GORDON, President

W. A. BOG, JACKSON DODDS, Joint General Managers

The strength of a bank is determined by its history, its policy, its management and the extent of its resources. For 117 years the Bank of Montreal has been in the forefront of Canadian finance.